

# CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS

## ORDINANCE NO. O-7-05 Revised

Introduced by Alderwoman Hoyle  
Alderman Kelley  
Alderwoman Carter

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY			
First Reader:	Public Hearing:	Fiscal Impact Note:	120 Day Rule:
2/14//05	3/23/05	2/28/05	
Referred to:	Meeting Date:	Action Taken:	
Economic Matters	5/19/05	Favorable	

**AN ORDINANCE** concerning

### **Taxicab Regulations**

**FOR** the purpose of defining taxicab company; defining a distinctive color scheme or insignia for taxicab companies; requiring that taxicab drivers, and any ride-along guests, wear clearly identifiable standard attire; restricting the number of independent owner/operator permits to 25 per license year; directing taxicab drivers to refrain from receiving or sending phone calls or messages without the use of hand-free technology; requiring drivers, when available for picking up passengers, to display lit exterior dome light; and matters generally relating to said taxicab regulations.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BY** repealing and re-enacting, with amendments, the following section of the Code of the City of Annapolis, 2005 Edition:

Section 7.48.020

Section 7.48.090

Section 7.48.340

Section 7.48.420

Section 7.48.560

**SECTION I: BE IT ESTABLISHED AND ORDAINED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the Code of the City of Annapolis shall read as follows:

**Section 7.48.020 Definitions.**

1           A.     Owner. For the purposes of this chapter, the "owner" of a taxicab is defined  
2 as the person in whose name the taxicab vehicle is registered with the department of motor  
3 vehicles of the state.

4           B.     "Taxicab" means:

5           1.     Except as provided in subdivision 2 of this subsection, a motor vehicle for  
6 hire that:

7           a.     Is designed to carry seven or fewer individuals including the driver; and

8           b. Is used to accept or solicit passengers for transportation for hire between those  
9 points along highways in this city as the passengers request.

10          2.     Taxicab does not include a motor vehicle operated on a regular schedule and  
11 between fixed termini with the approval of the public service commission.

12          C.     "Taxicab Company" for the purposes of this chapter a "Company" is three or  
13 more taxicabs sharing trips or trip dispatch services. Trip sharing may be accomplished  
14 by dispatch service, cellular phone, mobile data terminal or other technology.  
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16          1.     Each company must identify their office location, designated contact person  
17 and contact information.  
18

19          2.     Each company must provide a list of all drivers and taxicabs operating under  
20 their Company name and colors on an annual basis. This list must be  
21 submitted during the taxi license renewal period. The Company must update  
22 this list as drivers and vehicles change during the year.  
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24  
25 **Section 7.48.090 Distinctive color scheme or insignia.**

26 Every person **company** operating three or more taxicabs under permits of the city will adopt  
27 and employ a distinctive color scheme or insignia, which shall be registered with the  
28 department of public transportation, and no owner of a taxicab shall paint the vehicle to  
29 resemble the distinctive color scheme or insignia of other taxicabs to mislead the public as  
30 to the identity of the owner. Permits will not be issued if taxicabs do not adhere to company  
31 colors.

32          A     The distinctive color scheme must consist of one or more easily identifiable  
33 colors in addition to black and/or white. The predominant color for the taxi cab may not be  
34 specified as white or black and the secondary color must occupy not less than 40% of the  
35 taxicab surface.  
36  
37

1       B.     This color scheme must be uniformly applied to all subsequent vehicles  
2 licensed by that company.

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4       C.     Companies must submit their distinctive color scheme in accordance with this  
5 section by January 1, 2006. All taxicabs licensed prior to January 1, 2006, may continue  
6 to use display pre-existing color schemes. Taxicabs initially licensed after January 1, 2006,  
7 must conform in all respects with their company's color scheme.

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9     **Section 7.48.140 Exterior lights.**

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11     A. Every taxicab shall be equipped with a cruise light permanently mounted on the roof of  
12 the vehicle which shall have the word "taxi" or the name of the company.

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14     **Section 7.48.340 Permitting unqualified drivers.**

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16       ~~No owner of a taxicab knowingly shall permit to be operated any taxicab, the driver~~  
17 ~~of which has not complied with all the regulations governing taxicabs, and no owner shall~~  
18 ~~permit to be operated any taxicab, the driver of which is not properly displaying or wearing~~  
19 ~~in the taxicab the driver's badge, picture and identification card. Taxicabs shall only be~~  
20 ~~operated by drivers that are complying with all of the regulations governing taxicabs, are~~  
21 ~~properly displaying or wearing the appropriate badge, and are wearing clearly identifiable~~  
22 ~~standard attire that displays the cab company's name or logo. Any ride-along guests of the~~  
23 ~~driver or cab company shall also wear clearly identifiable attire that displays the cab~~  
24 ~~company name or logo. The taxicab owner is responsible for compliance with this section.~~

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26     **Section 7.48.420 Issuance.**

27     A.     Permit cards for owners shall be issued by the director of transportation at the  
28 office of the department of transportation in accordance with the provisions of this article.  
29 Each permit card issued shall expire at the end of the following June 30th.

30     B.     The department of transportation shall not allow more than two hundred  
31 taxicab owner's permits to be issued to taxicab companies or more than 25 taxicab owner's  
32 permits be issued to independent taxicab owners/operators at any one time in any license  
33 year.

34     C.     No one company, person, corporation, partnership, or other entity shall be  
35 issued, control or manage more than fifty owner's permits at any one time in any license  
36 year.

37     D.     Upon the expiration of an owner's permit, the person to whom the permit has  
38 been issued may apply for renewal. The director of transportation shall renew an owner's  
39 permit subject to the provisions of this chapter.

**Section 7.48.560 Conduct of drivers.**

Every driver of a taxicab shall:

A. Accept as a passenger and convey where directed any orderly person, upon request, unless previously engaged or unable or prohibited by the provisions of this chapter or by other valid law or regulation;

B. Answer promptly all communication and summonses;

C. Deliver all fares and all other legal charges received to the owners;

D. Not operate a taxicab while the driver's license is suspended;

E. Not permit any other person to use the driver's badge or driver's license card;

F. Not permit any other person to drive the taxicab and shall return the taxicab to the owners' garage upon completion of the shift to which the driver was assigned;

G. Proceed with each passenger to the destination by the shortest practicable route;

H. Give a receipt for fares on an authorized form when requested;

I. Not smoke while transporting passengers;

J. Charge only the rate of fare or charge established by law;

K. Not keep an animal in a taxicab while transporting passengers. However, this subsection does not prohibit a passenger from transporting a licensed guide dog;

L. Refrain from any and all forbidden, illegal, improper or unnecessary practices or conditions which may affect the public security, health or morals.

M. Refrain from sending or receiving phone calls or data messages via cellular phone, mobile data terminal or other technologies without use of a hands-free headset or equivalent device.

N. When in service, maintain the taxicab dome light lit at all times except when in route to pickup a scheduled passenger trip or actively transporting a passenger.

1           **SECTION II: AND BE IT FURTHER ESTABLISHED AND ORDAINED BY THE**  
2 **ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that this Ordinance shall take effect from the date of its  
3 passage.  
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6           **ADOPTED** this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2005.  
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9 **ATTEST:**

**THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL**

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12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 **Deborah Heinbuch, MMC**  
14 **City Clerk**  
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16

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ELLEN O. MOYER, MAYOR**

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXPLANATION:</b></p> <p>Redlining indicates matter added to existing law. Strike Out indicates matter deleted from existing law. <u>Underlining indicates amendments.</u></p>
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